

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-11 ACDA-10 /100 W

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R 291145Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9608

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA POUCH

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS CAIRO 1174

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EG US

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN REACTION TO US VETO

REF: CAIRO 1086

1. OFFICIAL FAHMY STATEMENT ON UNSC VOTING EXPECTED YESTERDAY
(REFTEL) HAS STILL NOT MATERIALIZED. MEDIA REPORT JANUARY 29
THAT PEOPLES ASSEMBLY SPEAKER HAS ANNOUNCED FAHMY WILL GIVE
STATEMENT TO ASSEMBLY ON US VETO, BUT THAT DATE FOR THIS HAS
NOT YET BEEN SET.

2. AHRAM EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, IN FRONT-PAGE COMMENTARY JANUARY 29,
NOTES US VETO SURPRISED NO ONE, SINCE USG HAD ANNOUNCED IT WOULD
VETO ANY RESOLUTION WHICH DID NOT CONFORM WITH US POLICY.
US VETO, HE STRESSES, IS NOT THE ISSUE AT HAND. WHAT REALLY
MATTERS IS ARAB POLICY FOR NEAR AND REMOTE FUTURE. ARABS
MUST AGREE ON PALESTINE PROBLEM AND ARAB COMMITMENT TO IT.

3. AKHBAR EDITORIAL, IN COURSE OF ATTACK ON SYRAIN
BA'ATH "INSTIGATION OF FIGHTING IN LEBANON," CLAIMS
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BA'ATH WASTED AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE PALESTINIAN
CAUSE BY ESCALATING FIGHTING IN LEBANON DURING UNSC

DEBATE AND THEN ENDING FIGHTING AFTER ISSUE HAD BEEN
"CONSIDERED." BA'ATH, HE CHARGED, SOUGHT TO ANNEX
LEBANON AND TO WEAKEN PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE BY
TIGHTENING SYRIAN CONTROL.

4. COMMENT: CARIO MEDIA, IN GENERAL, ARE SKIMMING OVER
USG VETO, STRESSING INSTEAD NECESSITY FOR
ARAB UNITY ON PALESTINE ISSUE. FONMIN FAHMY, IN ALMOST
EVERY PUBLIC STATEMENT IN RECENT DAYS, HAS ESCHEWED
COMMENT ON VETO BUT HAS MADE POINT OF EMPHASIZING
IMPORTANCE OF CONVOKING MEPC. LATEST INSTANCE IS IN
REPORT OF HIS MEETING JANUARY 28 WITH SUDANESE FONMIN WITH
WHOM HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE DISCUSSED "COMING EGYPTIAN
DRIVE" TO CONVOKE GENEVA WITH PARTICIPATION OF PLO.

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